

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/088,013

Examiner

Kim Nguyen

Applicant(s)

TAGUCHI, MASAMI

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 12/13/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-12 and 14 Now renumbered as 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 April 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thielman on 3/4/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace claims 8-12 and 14 with the following:

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8. (Currently Amended) A program embodied on an information storage medium or in a carrier wave, and used to supply information that is used to perform a multi-player game at a predetermined terminal device, wherein variations in a story are based on a selection input by a player, the program implementing in a computer and comprising:
- ~~information generation means which generates~~ instructions for generating the information used to perform the multi-player game;
 - ~~supply means which supplies~~ instructions for supplying the generated information to the terminal device; and
 - ~~acquisition means which acquires~~ instructions for acquiring the selection input by the player through the terminal device,
- wherein the multi-player game is an individual selection input type of game wherein different responses are output in correspondence to selection inputs;
- wherein the instructions for generating the ~~information generation means~~ generates further includes:
- instructions for generating first game information for allowing a first selection input by a first player when a first event requiring the first selection input by the first player occurs in the game, the first game information based on a first selection authority flag indicating that the first player has selection authority;
 - instructions for generating first response information corresponding to the first selection input by the first player ~~acquired by through the acquisition means~~ instructions for acquiring the selection input based on a first response completed flag indicating that the first selection input is completed;
 - instructions for generating second game information allowing a second selection input by a second player when a second event requiring the second selection input by the second player occurs in the game, the second game information based on a second selection authority flag indicating that the second player has selection authority; and
 - instructions for generating second response information corresponding to the second selection input by the second player ~~acquired by through the acquisition means~~ instructions for acquiring the selection input based on a second response completed flag indicating that the second selection input is completed; and
- wherein the ~~supply means supplies~~ instructions for supplying the generated information further includes:
- instructions for supplying the first game information to a terminal device operated by the first player;

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instructions for supplying the second game information to a terminal device
operated by the second player; and

instructions for supplying the first and second response information to the first
and second terminal devices of the first and second players, respectively.

9. (Currently Amended) The program as defined in claim 8,

~~wherein the information-generation means causes the generation of~~
instructions for generating the information further includes instructions for generating the
first and second events requiring the first and second selection inputs by the first and second
players, respectively, based on the game situation.

10. (Currently Amended) The program as defined in claim 8, further
implementing in the computer and comprising:

~~mail generation means which generates instructions for generating notice~~
information notifying receipt of the first or second selection input in electronic mail format,
~~when the acquisition means acquires instructions for acquiring the selection input further~~
includes instructions for acquiring the first or second selection input by the first or second
player, respectively,

~~wherein the supply means supplies instructions for supplying the generated~~
information further includes instructions for supplying the generated notice information as
electronic mail to the terminal device operated by the second or first player, respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) The program as defined in claim 8,

~~wherein the acquisition means acquires instructions for acquiring the selection~~
input further includes instructions for acquiring personal information including identification
information of the player and a captured image of the player, through a personal information
input device having input means and capturing means; and

~~wherein the information-generation means uses instructions for generating the~~
information further includes instructions for generating the acquired personal information to
generate the information to be used to perform the multi player game.

12. (Currently Amended) A program embodied on an information storage
medium or in a carrier wave, and used to supply information that is used to perform a multi-
player game at a predetermined terminal device based on a selection input by a player, the
program implementing in a computer and comprising:

~~information-generation means which generates instructions for generating the~~
information used to perform the multi-player game;

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~~supply means which supplies instructions for supplying the generated~~
information to the terminal device;

~~acquisition means which acquires instructions for acquiring the selection input~~
by the player through the terminal device; and

~~determination means which instructions for automatically determines~~
~~determining~~ a content of the selection input by at least one of the first and second players,
when the ~~acquisition means instructions for acquiring the selection input~~ has not acquired any
selection input information from at least one of the first and second players within a
predetermined time,

wherein the multi-player game is a concurrent selection input type of game
wherein different responses are output in correspondence to selection inputs;

wherein the ~~instructions for generating the information-generation means~~
~~generates further includes:~~

~~instructions for generating~~ game information allowing the selection inputs by
first and second players when a predetermined event requiring the selection input occurs in
the game; and

~~instructions for generating~~ response information corresponding to the selection
inputs by the first and second players acquired by ~~through~~ the ~~acquisition means instructions~~
~~for acquiring the selection input;~~ and

wherein the ~~supply means supplies instructions for supplying the generated~~
~~information~~ supplies the game information and the response information to first and second
terminal devices operated by the first and second players, respectively,

wherein the ~~instructions for generating the information generating means uses~~
the selection input having the content determined by ~~through~~ the ~~determination means~~
~~instructions for automatically determining a content~~ to generate the information used to
perform the multi-player game.

14. (Currently Amended) The program as defined in claim 12,

wherein the ~~determination means determines instructions for automatically~~
~~determining a content further includes determining~~ the content of the selection input for at
least one of the first and second players at random, or by a lottery, or based on any one of a
selection input order, time elapsed in the selection input, a time at which the selection input is
done, a game score, the state of game progress, and a region to which the first or second
player belongs.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an information supply system or a program implemented in a computer which uses flags denoting whether players have selection authority and whether an input response is completed, as cited in claims 1 or 8, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the respective claims 1 or 8. The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an information supply system or a program implemented in a computer which includes determination means for automatically determining a content of the selection input when the acquisition means has not acquired any selection input information from the player within a predetermined time, as cited in claims 5 or 12, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the respective claims 5 or 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Nguyen whose telephone number


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is 571-272-4441. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday during business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai, can be reached on 571-272-7147. The central official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Date: March 5, 2005



Kim Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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